

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
Conference Call Held on
Tuesday, August 5, 2008
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room 333
Sacramento, CA 95814

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Participating

Kevin Andrew
Dennis Atkinson
Pete Downs

Ben Drake
Steve McIntyre
Dana Merrill

Steve Schafer
Herb Schmidt

Members Not Participating

Greg Coleman
Andrew Johnson

Bradford Lange
Al Rossini

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Tom Esser
Nancy Irelan
Roger Spencer

Beth Stone-Smith
Myrna Villegas
Doug West

Bob Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Herb Schmidt called the meeting to order at 10:49 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call. A quorum was present. Bob Wynn noted there were three vacancies on the Board: Frank Leeds had resigned; both Wally Ewart and Jim Unti had retired which led to their resignations. Bob said the Board would discuss the vacancy created by Wally's retirement at the October 29 meeting.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Herb Schmidt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

RESEARCH PROPOSAL FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Tom Esser provided a brief background on the two research proposals being considered for funding during today's conference call. One proposal was by Dr. Julian Alston with the UC Davis Economics Department and the other was by Dr. David Gilchrist with the UC Davis Plant Pathology Department.

The proposal by Dr. Julian Alston, entitled "The Benefits and Costs of Alternative Policies for the Management of Pierce's Disease," was for a new project and was submitted in response to the most recent

RFP. The revised, scaled-back proposal is for three years and totals \$248,631, reduced from \$292,131. The overall objective of the proposal is to develop a detailed, practical quantitative understanding of the economic consequences of PD and alternative management strategies. The Board's Research Director, Dr. Nancy Irelan, discussed how the proposal had been reviewed, the comments made by the reviewers, and the changes made to the proposal by Dr. Alston.

Discussion about the proposal followed, after which the Board voted.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded, and passed to recommend funding the economic research proposal submitted by Dr. Julian Alston. The funding for this project, "The Benefits and Costs of Alternative Policies for the Management of Pierce's Disease," would be for three years and for a total of \$248,631.

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Pete Downs Second: Dennis Atkinson
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Downs, Drake, Schafer
Against: McIntyre, Merrill, Schmidt
Abstain: None
Absent: Coleman, Johnson, Lange, Rossini

Following the vote, it was suggested that a small group speak with Dr. Alston about concerns identified during the discussion of the proposal. This will be arranged by staff.

Tom Esser then described the second proposal. It is by Dr. David Gilchrist and is entitled "Functional Testing and Delivery of Pierce's Disease-Specific Promoters from Grape." It is a request for one more year of funding to conclude a four-year project. The amount of money requested is \$31,485. This is scaled back from his initial request of \$123,786 submitted in response to the last RFP. The Board has funded Dr. Gilchrist's research since July of 2004, for a total of \$582,000. Dr. Nancy Irelan discussed the type of research involved in this project, its value to other researchers, and the comments of reviewers. After discussion, the Board voted on the proposal.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to recommend funding the research proposal submitted by Dr. David Gilchrist. The funding for this project, "Functional Testing and Delivery of Pierce's Disease-Specific Promoters from Grape," will be for one year and will total \$31,485.

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Dana Merrill Second: Pete Downs
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Downs, Drake, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Coleman, Johnson, Lange, Rossini

OTHER ITEMS

None

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.